Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
19.	Tobacco (VFC) (Rs. per kg.)	Black Soil (F2 Gr)	25.00	26.00	27.00
		Light Soil (L2 Gr)	27.00	28.00	29.00
20.	Copra (Calender Year)	Milling	3100	3250	3300
		Ball	3325	3500	3550
21.	Sesamum		1205	1300	1400
22.	Nigerseed		915	1025	1100

@ Statutory Minimum Price linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent with proportionate premium for every 0.1 per cent increase in recovery above that level.

The MSP for masur (lentil) has been fixed from the crop year 2000-01.

Paying drought compensation to farmers

353. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the Commission on Agriculture Cost and Price (C.A.C.P.) to recommend to pay the compensation in cash and other forms to the farmers in view of drought;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Commission in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the farmers from whom Government don't purchase grain at all would be deprived from getting this benefit in case the Commission announces bonus apart from M.S.P.; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) In view of the failure of monsoon during June-July, the Government asked the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (C.A.C.P.) to furnish a supplementary report on Price Policy for Kharif Crops of 2002-03 Season.

(b) Keeping in view the recommendation of the C.A.C.P., the Government has announced payment of Special Drought Relief Prices

ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20 per quintal for different Kharif Crops of 2002-03 season.

(c) and (d) The Special Drought Relief Prices are over and above the Minimum Support Prices fixed for Kharif Crops of 2002-03 season. The Special Drought Relief Prices are payable to farmers offering their produce to the public and cooperative agencies entrusted with procurement operation for various agricultural commodities.

Cost of agricultural goods

354. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of agricultural goods have been declining while the cost of agricultural production is rising day by day;

(b) whether cheaper agricultural goods have been flooding the country after lifting of quantitative ban on import by Government;

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in order to improve the conditions of farmers; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the plan outlay on agriculture in order to complete the pending agricultural schemes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Cost of production of agricultural crops depends on cost of cultivation and productivity. Though there were fluctuations in the terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, the index continued to remain favourable to the agricultural sector during 1991-92 to 2000-01. The proportion of import of agricultural commodities in total national imports increased from 3.1 per cent in 1991-92 to 8.2 per cent in 1998-99 but declined to 6.7 per cent by 2001-02.

(d) The Tenth Plan outlay for the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is Rs.13,200 crores compared with the Ninth Plan outlay of Rs. 9154 crores.